

F. P. Bissell Journal Post Scripts
Gary Heard January 2021

Frederic Phelps Bissell was my mother's great granddad. In my childhood, when we would go back and forth to the Connecticut shore from Manchester, my mother, Helen Mansfield Carroll Heard, would often point out the Bissell homestead on Route 85. This year I wrote three narratives about Bissell life on the farm gleaned from F.P.'s daily journal entries between 1847 and 1905. My mother kept the journals after her mother's death in 1961.



Frederic Phelps Bissell circa 1870 from family photographs.

I left a few topics out of the narratives because they didn't fit neatly. In one case, I wanted to research more about the many Bissells that kept visiting from "the west". In another two, I wanted to learn more about the Bissell-Strong and Bissell-Carver familial ties. In a fourth, I wanted to sort out where three generations of Bissell families lived in proximity to each other.

From my research, all of the visitors from the west were F.P. Bissell's aunts, uncles, cousins and half-brother Levi. They descended from F.P.'s grandparents, Levi and Abilena Bissell and were pioneers in western New York during the first half of the 19th century. Exactly who were they and what drove them to the frontier and back again for visits?

Researching the family tree showed that two generations of Bissell women married into the Strong family and a third generation, were F.P.'s cousins. One generation of David Strongs married a Carver feeding into the Bissell-Strong generations. F.P.'s wife Almira Jane was a Carver and there were many others who lived in proximity. In a small farm community like Hebron it was typical such relationships grew out of proximity and mutual dependence. Who were these relatives and how did they interact in the journals?

Finally, as to the mystery of the Bissell families' homesteads, I think I have an answer – or at least a good guess!

(A few other postscripts of interest crept into this narrative at the end!)

As with the first three write-ups, I am indebted to Hebron historian Mary Ann Foote whose intuition and research skills gave me openings to explore. I am also grateful to genealogical researcher Rich Nichols for help on both the “Western Bissells” and Stronges to whom he is related.

The Eastern and Western Bissells in Frederic P. Bissell's Journals

Frederic P. Bissell made many references to visitors “from the west” in his journals and he and his son F. Clarence too “went west” regularly. Who were these western relatives? The following narrative and excerpts from F.P.'s journals reveal just who they were. But first, the “Eastern Bissells”:

Frederic Bissell's father Ira was one of the Bissell siblings who stayed close to home. They were just too young to join their older brothers in the west. They included Aunts Clarissa, Phebe, Harriet and initially Abel and his family. Ira, Clarissa (Clary) Harriet, and Phebe were the youngest, all under twenty. Their slightly older brother Abel was just 21 when the first Bissells left in 1806. Lydia or “Lydea” would have been 25 in 1806, but we have no record of her beyond her birth in 1781 as noted in Hebron's *Barbour Index* of births, marriages and deaths.

Three of the Eastern Bissells married into local families when they became of age, Ira to Acenith Tarbox of Hebron, Abel to Mary Vallet of nearby Montville, and Clarissa to David Strong. Phebe did not marry; she died at age 25 in 1820. Her gravestone inscription simply says she was Phebe Bissell daughter of Levi and Abilena. In 1830, Harriet married a local man, Daniel Tuttle and eventually moved to northeastern Ohio.

Ira would inherit much of Levi's farm property and remain a farmer, principally, while Abel would pursue many businesses. Both would raise families in the community. In 1848 in his sixties, Abel would “retire” to join his still living brother, sister and nieces and nephews in western New York. Much of his grown family would follow over the next decade. Clarissa would have four children with David Strong - David Bissell, Judson, Chauncey and Lyman. All were contemporaries of F.P. and Almira, so it's not surprising they became friends growing up in Hebron appearing in many F.P. journal entries.

Levi (1747 – 1828) and Abilena Mann Bissell (1754 – 1823)
m. Hebron November 29, 1774

The Western Bissells

Levi (b. 1776 d. 1847)
Aaron (b.1777 d. 1867)
Hannah Bissell Backus (b. 1779 d. 1868)
Alexander (b.1783 d. 1843)
Abel (b.1785 d. 1861)
Sally (b.1789 d. 1836)
Harriet (b.1797 d. 1872)

Abel.S. Bissell (b.1799)

The Eastern Bissells

Ira (b. January 19, 1788 d. April 13, 1870)
Clarissa (b.1791 – d.1859)
Phebe (b.1795 – d.1820)

Lydia (b.1781 - ?)

The “Western” Bissells were initially Levi, Aaron, Hannah, Alexander and Sally. Siblings Abel and Harriet and a cousin Abel S. Bissell (b. 1799) moved west at a later date. These Bissells were the adventurers of the family. They left Hebron in the early 1800’s when most were in their mid to late 20’s - though Sally was still a teenager. They moved “west” where new territory was being settled in western and upstate New York following the end of the Revolutionary War. In Harriet’s case, it was to northeast Ohio after 1830. For some, the opportunities in the east may have seemed limited, particularly because there wasn’t enough family land or fertile land to go around, farmland care being poor. For others it must have been exciting contemplating a new life in “uncharted territory.”

Ira Bissell’s brothers Aaron, Alexander and Levi, and a sister Hannah traveled overland over several hundred miles and set down roots in Genesee County, New York. All would become farming families in the fertile fields and abundant forests there. Abel would join them many years later. A cousin Abel S. Bissell, born to Abel & Lucy Post Bissell, in 1799, would migrate a short distance away to Cazenovia, Madison County, New York and raise a family there.

According to local histories, Genesee County was settled in the early 1800’s, corresponding to when the Bissells moved there. The Seneca tribes of the area had sided with the British in the Revolutionary War. Following the war they were forced to sell much of their land to the Americans. A large parcel of land called the “Triangle Tract” was acquired by speculators and made available to potential settlers in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. It’s a reasonable explanation for why the Bissells moved – such an opportunity! When the Erie Canal was finished in 1825 more families would flood the area and commerce between east and west would grow exponentially. For the Bissells it must have seemed a provident move.



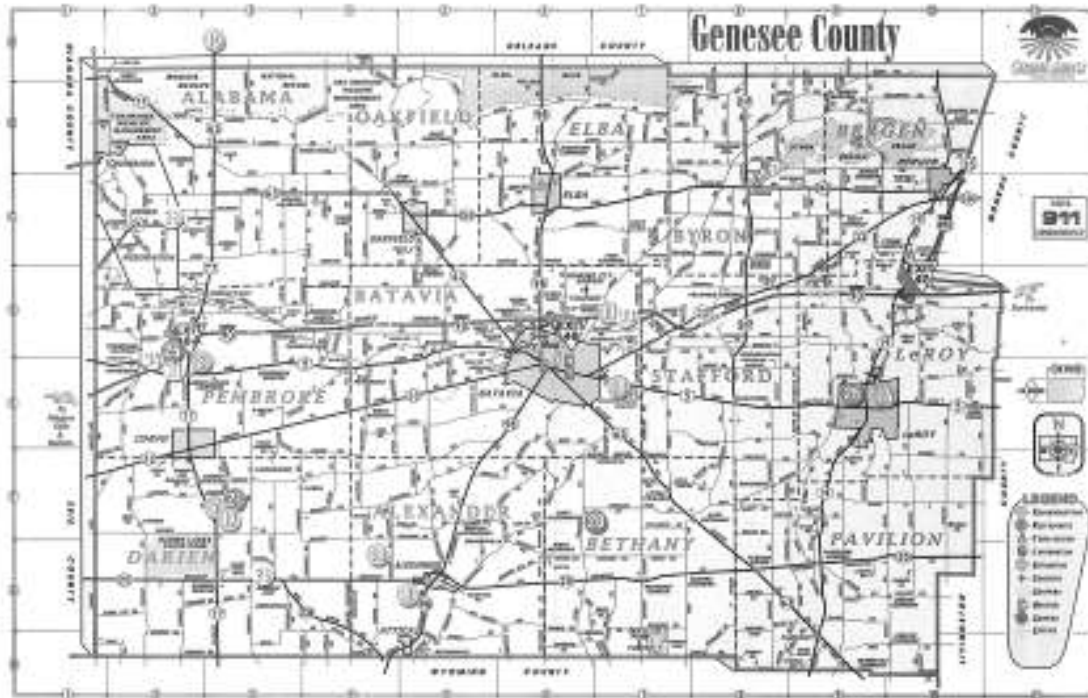
Map of New York Counties, note Genesee County in extreme western New York between Erie and Monroe Counties.

Aaron, Alexander and Levi settled in Bergen, Genesee County. All brought their wives with them from Connecticut. Aaron had married Lucinda Austin (1783 – 1833) of Barkhamstead, Litchfield County, Connecticut. Many Bissell families migrated there from Windsor in the 18th century so it's possible that Aaron got to know Lucinda from a Bissell relative.

Alexander had married Lydia (1782 – 1852), and Levi had wed Betsey (1778 – 1853). Lydia and Betsey were probably from Hebron area families but this is just conjecture. The women would have been in their mid to late twenties and the men slightly older suggesting they had been married a short time with no children yet.

Around the same time sister Hannah Bissell moved to Darien in western Genesee County near Batavia with husband Nathaniel Backus. He was from prominent Norwich and Hebron family lineage. He was the son of Ezra and Mercy Backus originally from Norwich. Nathaniel was probably related to Ezra L. Backus who lived just north of Ira and F.P. on Church Street, operating a sawmill and tannery in 1850's and 60's and is mentioned often in the journals.

I have yet to develop more information about Alexander, Hannah and Levi in Genesee County – their occupations, children, etc. Hannah died in 1832, Alexander in 1843 and Levi in 1847. F.P.'s journal entries make no mention of them or of children, as his entries didn't start until November 1847.



The current day map above is of Genesee County with Bergen in the northeast, Le Roy immediately south and Darien in the southwest.

Aaron

An excerpt from an 1890 biographical sketch of James A. Bissell, Aaron's grandson, describes the arrival of Aaron, Alexander and Levi:

"Bissell, James A., represents one of the oldest pioneer families in Genesee County. His grandfather, Aaron Bissell, settled in the town in 1807, where he took up a tract of 275 acres from the original holders in what was known as the Triangular Tract and for which he paid the cash. He was known to have had the most ready money of any of the early pioneers. He was a native of the town of Hebron, Tolland county, Conn., born in 1777; he was a cooper by trade, and when twenty-one years of age his father, Levi Bissell, a Revolutionary soldier, gave him a suit of clothes and a pair of shoes and he started out to battle for himself. He worked eight years at East Haddam, on the Connecticut River, on a contract making sugar and molasses barrels for the New Orleans and Cuba trade." (East Haddam is where Almira's brother or cousin Lucien B. Carver lived.)

"At this he saved \$800 (the money he had to purchase his land with), and in the spring of 1806 he, with his brothers Levi and Alexander, came west. Levi and Alexander took out articles of agreement for 800 acres and Aaron for 160, in what is now the town of Sweden, Monroe County." (northeast of Genesee County)
 "Returning to Connecticut that winter they made a transfer of the land to a man named Reed, who settled it a short time after."

“The brothers again came west and Aaron settled in Bergen, erected log buildings, cleared his farmland, and became a successful farmer, and an influential man in the early politics and affairs of his town. His wife was Lucinda Austin, who was the first woman schoolteacher in the town of Bergen north of the village. She died when forty-six; Aaron lived to be past eighty-two. They reared three sons and three daughters. Aaron Mann, the youngest son, was born in Bergen in 1817, became a farmer and spent his entire life on the homestead, a part of which he owned.”

Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, New York. 1890 Edited by F.W. Beers

Grave records show that Aaron and Lucinda’s daughter Polly A. Bissell died at age two in 1815 and an infant Aaron in 1817. Second son Aaron Mann was born in 1818 according to his gravestone – his middle name being grandmother Abilena’s maiden name.

Aaron Mann

Gazetteer : “He (Aaron Mann) followed farming, carrying on 265 acres of land which he owned, and was a breeder of fine horses and sheep.” He had two daughters and four sons with Harriet Avis Mitchell, “daughter of John Mitchell of Rochester.”

Aaron Mann and Harriet Bissell’s children were:

James A. (1846 – 1925) – Mt. Rest Cemetery
Emma L. Bissell Emerson (1847 – 1914)
Frances A. (1849 – ?)
Frederick M. (1851 – 1919) Mt. Rest Cemetery
William A. (1857 – ?)
George A. (1859 – 1923) Mt. Rest Cemetery

Both Aaron Mann and Harriet Bissell Moulson are also buried in Mount Rest Cemetery, Bergen dying in 1863 and 1906 respectively. Harriet’s gravestone reads “Avis B. Moulson wife of Aaron M. Bissell.” Whether she married a Moulson before or after Aaron is ambiguous! I haven’t found a clear record.

Their third son Frederick M. Bissell was probably named after Aaron’s cousin Frederic P. According to the *Gazetteer* he was a house painter, professor of music and leader, violin and coronet player in the Bergen orchestra. He and his wife Frances Kellogg Gifford (1853 – 1932) had seven children, two of which were named Carrie A. and Clarence – F.P. and Almira’s children’s names! It goes to show you that these families stayed in touch!

Aaron and Harriet’s first son, James A. Bissell visited the eastern Bissells in 1869 when he was 23. Again, according to the *Gazetteer*,

“James A. Bissell received his education in the district schools, Prof. Throop’s select school and Prof. Hamilton’s private school in Bergen. His father died when he was

17 and he was therefore early thrown into much responsibility on the farm. He remained at home and faithfully attended to the work and the affairs of the farm for several years. When about 22 years of age he began for himself, following farming to the present time. He later purchased a part of the estate farm from the heirs. He now resides on his farm near the village of Bergen. Mr. Bissell is influential in political affairs of his town..."

Sally

Sally married William Clark and settled in Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, New York above Albany. One of her sons, Nathaniel Mann Bissell was born in Saratoga County in 1810 when she was 21 – Mann being Sally's mother's maiden name. Abilena's brother Joel Mann (1743 – 1824) who was living in Milton Center next door to Ballston Spa probably introduced Sally to William. William Clark appears as a tax collector in 1815 according to a local Ballston Spa history published in 1878. We don't know William's family origin. He died in 1832 and she in 1836. Nathaniel and his wife Sally had five children and lived in Boston according to the 1870 census.

Harriet

The youngest of the Levi and Abilena Bissell's was Harriet born in 1797 two years after her sister Phoebe. She would have been a youngster when her older siblings set out "to the west". We know little about her other than an entry in the Hebron "Barbour Index" of Harriet marrying Daniel Tuttle on Oct. 3, 1830. Reverend Peter Griffing officiated. Two years later Griffing presided at James Tuttle's wedding to Emma Bissell. The entries of the Tuttle's in the *Index* indicate they were from the Andover Society of Hebron and Columbia.

Tracing Daniel and Harriet show they are buried in Windsor, Ohio close to Cleveland. Reverend Griffing is buried in nearby Litchfield, Ohio dying at age 67 in 1838. The records of churches in Hebron don't show a Griffing on their rosters so we don't yet know his origin. We can only speculate that Harriet, Daniel and Reverend Griffing migrated to Ohio sometime after 1830 and settled there.

Why there? According to Moina W. Topeka's *History of Ashtabula County, Ohio Large*, published in 1924, a George Phelps was the first settler arriving in 1799 from Connecticut followed the next year by brother-in-law Solomon Griswold from Simsbury, Connecticut. Windsor and Litchfield were part of the "Western Reserve", a 17th century George II grant to Connecticut in northeast Ohio, subsequently organized by speculators of the Connecticut Land Company, which attracted many families.

Abel

Abel remained in Hebron when his brothers and sisters left for western and upstate New York. According to Hebron town records, in 1807 Father Levi gave sons Abel and Alexander a 40-acre plot of land. They were 30 and 28 at the time and it corresponded to the time Alexander came back to Hebron with Levi, and Aaron after their first land purchases west. When the three older brothers returned west, Abel remained with younger brother Ira and sisters Clarissa, and Phebe.

The *Gazetteer* says Abel “became a successful clothier by trade and ran a carding and woolen factory,” presumably in Hebron where he had property. Hebron town land records show that he owned several parcels of land and businesses and held mortgages. Abel is listed in the politicalgraveyard.com index as being a Connecticut State Assemblyman in 1822 and 1830 when he would have been 37 and 45. His brother Ira was an Assemblyman in 1834 and 1838.

Abel’s wife Mary was the daughter of Jeremiah Vallet, a farmer in Montville, Connecticut. We know from F.P.’s journals that they raised their children in Hebron and that Calvin, Frank, Rachel, Phebe and Lucy remained for years. Abel with Mary eventually joined his siblings in Genesee County when Abel and Mary were in their early sixties. “In 1848, he came to Bergen via the Erie Canal from New York 18 days, with his wife Mary Vallet”, according to the *Gazetteer*.

Sons John and Jeremiah followed shortly thereafter and the other children many years later though we do not know exactly when, except for Frank. Frank went west from Hebron in 1863 and eventually settled in Le Roy perhaps to care for his mother and father Abel’s farm or businesses after Abel died. This event may have spurred the other Bissell children to leave Hebron. Abel died August 30, 1861, aged 75 years and Mary died January 13, 1880 at 95. Mother, father, sisters and brothers are all buried in Genesee County cemeteries.

Children of Abel (1785 – 1861) and Mary Vallet Bissell (1786 – 1880)

John Vallet	1814 – 1891
Calvin	1817 – 1874
Lucy A.	1818 – 1908
Phoebe	1820 – 1902
Rachel T	1823 – 1891
Jeremiah	1827 – 1885
Frank J	1828 – 1902

The children were all contemporaries of Frederic P. Bissell who was born in 1822. So we can surmise that they would have been childhood and adult friends and would have developed a close bond, explaining their visits “back home”.

Here are some excerpts from Frederic P. Bissell's first journal entries in the 1850's about Abel and Abel & Mary's sons and daughters:

November 18, 1848 – "Levi Bissell arrived." 22, "Visited at Calvin Bissell's with Levi. 26, "Calvin and wife here." 27, "Carried Levi to Hartford for west." (More to say about Levi below!)

June 10, 1850, "Aunt Ross came from west." 19, "Visited at Aunt Betsey with Mrs. Phelps and Aunt Ross." Aunt Betsey was probably Betsey Jones Phelps daughter of Frederick and Mary or Molly Jones Phelps who was adopted by an uncle Jedediah Jones after Molly died in 1796 at 36. F.P.'s mother, Levinia Phelps Bissell, was a daughter of Mary and Frederick. Mrs. Phelps and Aunt Ross I cannot pin down.

February 24, 1851, "Moving the mill saw. Frank Bissell here. F.P. was working on his own saw and shingle mill.

April 8, 1851, "Visited at Calvin Bissell's." Again, visited him May 26. These entries indicate Calvin lived locally.

January 2, 1852, "John Bissell here."

January 16, 1852, "John and Jerymiah Bissell here."

The January timing of the entries show me that John Vallet and Jeremiah may have already moved to Bergen, since farming activities would have taken up other months.

April 20, 1852, "Father and David Strong started west." (They returned the 29th.)
November 11, 1852, Uncle Abel and wife here."

In December of 1852 F.P. writes, "Uncle Abel Bissell here for funeral of Mrs. Adoniram Bissell, Sarah Porter Bissell", age 76.

Adoniram was the son of Hezekiah and Phebe Bissell and a contemporary of Abel's. Hezekiah was the brother of F.P.'s grandfather Levi. Abel had only moved to Bergen in 1848, so it's reasonable to assume that there was a close bond between Adoniram and him.

In September 1853 Levi Bissell wife and child (Emma Adell), Aaron Bissell and his wife visited with F.P., Almira and Calvin Bissell wife and child and Rachel Bissell:

September 17, " Levi wife and child, Aaron Bissell and wife come."
22, "visited at Edward Webber's with Levi."
23, "Visited at G. Buell's and Calvin Bissell's."
24, Levi and wife return from Westchester."
26, Went to Colchester with Levi."
27, "Levi and wife and Almira visited at H.L. Chaseborough's."

28, "Calvin, wife and child, Mrs. Arnold, Miss Buell, Rachael Bissell, Aaron Bissell and wife, Levi, wife and child here."

October 3, "Levi and folks started for home."

Two years later and regularly thereafter,

October 10, 1855, "Father started west." October 25, 1855, "Father got home from the west."

November 8, "Uncle Abel, Mrs. Buell and child here. Concert by S.G. Gilbert."

January 10, 1856, John Bissell comes from west, staid (sic) here overnight."

March 13, "Calvin Bissell and wife here."

September 25, 1858, "Frank Bissell wife and child here."

September 15, 1859, "Aunt Sally died this morning, went to Colchester after coffin."

16, "Funeral of Aunt Sally." I first thought Sally was Levi & Abilena's daughter but research shows this Sally was probably Sally Bissell born to Abel & Lucy Post Bissell, February 12, 1801 according to the "Barbour Index", an 18th - mid-19th century Hebron town record of births, deaths and marriages.

Abel was F.P.'s great uncle, son of Benjamin & Elizabeth Sawyer Bissell. Abel and Lucy were married in May 15, 1794 and had several children: Anna May 1, 1795, Abel S., January 15, 1799, Elizabeth, September 10, 1804, Benjamin A., September 3, 1806. Louisa E. May 30, 1809, and Clarissa M., May 1, 1813. Abel died in 1837 age 86 and Lucy in 1849 age 81. February 23, 1849 entry, "Widow Lucy Bissell died."

Abel S. was another "Western Bissell" of the same generation that moved to western New York early in the 19th century, he to Cazenovia in Madison County. I dwell on the relations in this write-up because I had mistaken him for another Abel born to Levi and Abilena Bissell in earlier narratives that I write extensively about above.

September 5, `1862, "Visited at John Bissell's and E. Buell's." (John may have retained some property in Hebron.)

November 22, 1862, "Levi came today, cut up beef, and tried tallow." December 15, "Levi expects to start for home tomorrow."

October 2, 1865, "Levi and daughter come." 10, "Levi and Emma gone to Westchester." 12, "visited at Phebe Bissell's with Levi." November 15, "Visited at David B. Strong's with Levi." 20, Called at Esq. Strong's, Judson Strong's with Levi." 22, Levi and Emma started for home."

December 20, 1866, "Levi comes."

January 9, 1867, "J. V. Bissell here and James here, Sarah Taylor comes." John Vallet Bissell was the first son of Uncle Abel and Aunt Mary. James was Aaron Mann and Harriet's first born, probably visiting the historical family village for the first time.

March 11, 1869, "Levi started for home." 13, "James A Bissell started for home today as did Levi two days before." (October 25, 1869 "Clarence started for the west." (He returned November 15.)
October 28, 1869, "Went to John Bissell's and Mrs. Buell's visiting."

When F.P.'s father Ira died April 13, 1870, Levi came on the 14th for the funeral the following day. He visited with people for two weeks and "started for home" on May 2. Nearly five months later F.P. went to see his western relatives:

September 21, 1870, F.P. wrote, "prepared to go west", returned October 21.

December 12, 1870, Jeremiah Bissell, wife and child "here at dinner", repeated two days later.

July 26, 1876 "Call at Cousin Phoebe Bissell " This would be one of Abel's children who stayed in the area.

September 27, 1881, "Went west the 2nd returned today."

1881 would be the last time F.P. went west for seven years. Sunday, September 23, 1888 F.P. exclaims, "My brother Levi died this morning in Le Roy, NY." In his Wednesday, October 10 entry he relates "got back from western N.Y., got a telegram Sept. 24 that my Brother Levi was dead and we left here at 2 PM same day and returned to day, had unpleasant weather all the time and wife & myself had colds all the time, sick in bed some. Left T'ville 3 P.M. arrived at Le Roy about 8 AM next morning."

Brother? F.P. never mentioned a brother! Who was Levi and what was he doing in western New York? A little digging with the help of Hebron historian M.A. Foote showed Levi was Judge Bissell's half brother! Ira had been married to Acenith Mann prior to Levinia Phelps. Acenith had died in 1820 at age 32 not long after Levi was born in 1819. According the 1890 publication: "*Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, New York. Edited by F.W. Beers*":

"Levi Bissell was born in Hebron, Tolland County, Conn., April 12, 1819, and was a son of Ira and Aseneth (sic?)(Mann) Bissell, natives of Hebron, Conn. Ira Bissell, son of Levi, was a leading and prominent farmer of Connecticut. He served in the State Senate, as did also his son and grandson, and in the Assembly. He reared two sons and two daughters. Levi Bissell, the subject of this sketch, came to Bergen, where he purchased 167 acres of land, which his widow now owns. In May 1868, he moved to Le Roy, where he resided until his death. He married Bellona A. Anderson, daughter of Seneca and Lucy (Webb) Anderson, who were born respectively July 17, 1798, and February 12, 1804, in Massachusetts. Levi Bissell and his wife (Bellona Anderson) had one daughter (Emma Adell Bissell), who died at the age of 22. They have an adopted daughter, Bell Bissell." (Bellona was named after the original name of the town.)

When I had read (not too closely) about the early visitors from the west, I assumed Levi, Aaron and wives they were related uncles and aunts. However Uncle Levi died in 1847 and Uncle Aaron was in his seventies when he was mentioned in F.P.'s first journal. Aaron's wife Lucinda had died in 1833. This fact left me to wonder whom the visitors were. We know now that Aaron was Aaron Mann, son of Uncle Aaron, and Harriet his wife; and Levi was the half-brother of Ira, Bellona his wife.

February 13, 1902 "Wrote to Bellona Bissell" (Brother Levi's widow.)

Levi was the last piece of the puzzle about the Western Bissells. All are buried in Bergen with the exception of Frank who rests in Le Roy just south of Bergen.

The last entries in F.P.'s journals indicate another western Bissell named John Bissell, but not John Vallet who had died in 1891.

August 23, 1893, "Young John Bissell and wife called, visiting at E. J. Willcox." (E. J. lived across Church Street from F.P. and Almira.)

September 12, 1899, "John Bissell of Cleveland Ohio here at dinner, visited."

A John C. Bissell, listed in Cleveland's Brooklyn Heights Cemetery, may be related to John V. Bissell though no definitive link can be made. At that date he could have been descended from any of the "Western Bissells".

There is much more to research about the "Western Bissells" such as "young John Bissell" or Abel S. Bissell the cousin who moved to Cazenovia, New York. Their descendants are scattered across western New York. I am especially intrigued with the notion that they may be related to my father Louis Frank Heard who was born and spent his early childhood in Lockport, Niagara County just west of Genesee. But that research will be for another time – if ever!

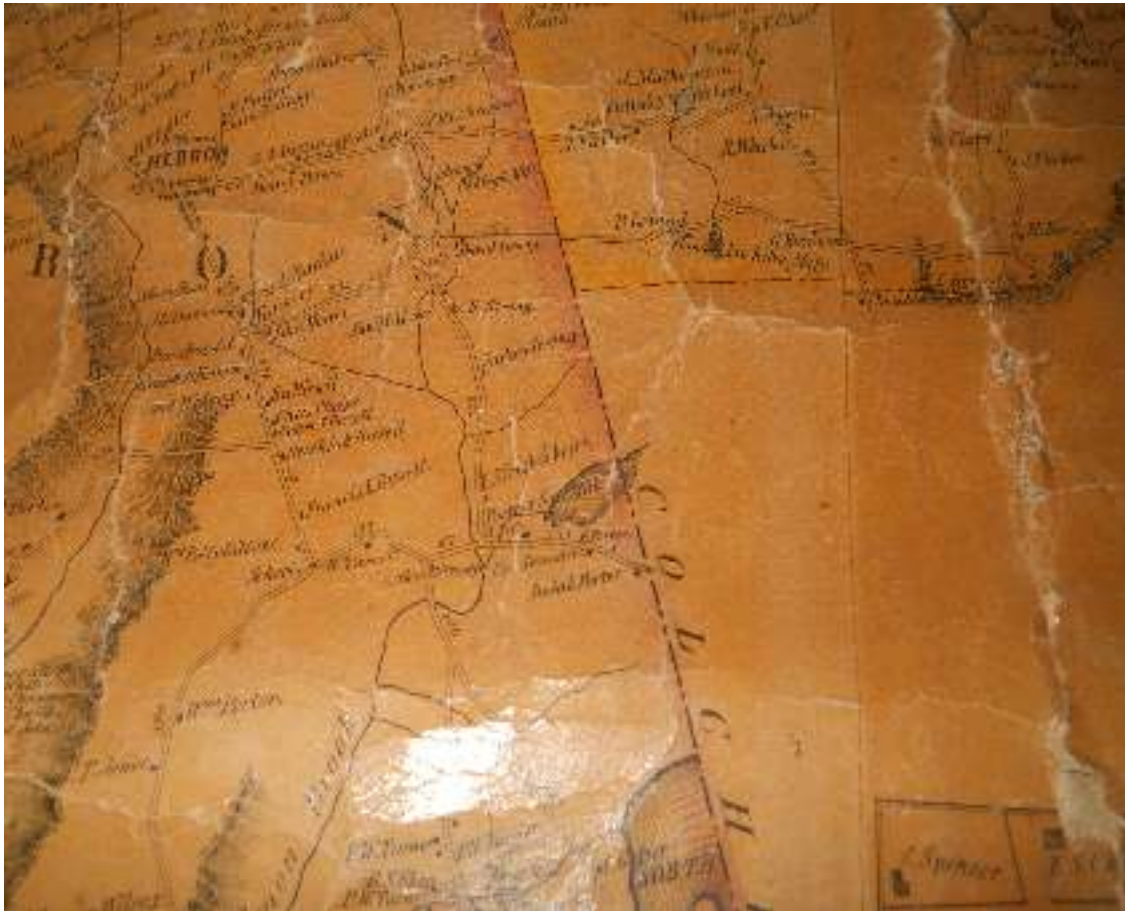
Levi and Abilena's second oldest daughter, Lydia Bissell (b. July 18, 1781) is another line of research. We have no record of her death or any reference to her in F.P.'s journals. One reference to a Lydia P. Bissell in the *Index* is that she married Hubbard E. Bestor of the Bestor family in Hebron. They were married in 1842 in Columbus, Chenango County, New York south of Utica near Cooperstown. Both Lydia and Hubbard are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron. This Lydia was born in 1812, whereas Levi and Abilena's Lydia was born in 1781. Further research needed!

The Strong Family

I decided to write about the Strongs because they figured prominently in his life in the last half of the 19th century. They were family owing to the marriage of Frederic Phelps Bissell's great aunt Leah to one generation of David Strongs, and to that of his aunt Clarissa to another David Strong.

When F.P.'s father Ira Bissell first bought the 144.5-acre farm on Church Street south of Kinney Road from Zechariah Cone in 1839, it included a working sawmill on the northeast corner of the property nearby David Strong's. An agreement was struck on the same date with Strong to allow Ira to cultivate his meadow in exchange for \$50, and securing Strong's water rights and personal use of the sawmill.

In 1851, Ira gave the sawmill to his son Frederic Phelps Bissell to operate. Following, Frederic built a shingle mill as an addition to the sawmill, or possibly upstream as shown on the 1857 map below. See the "Saw Mill" noted below a small millpond in the northeast corner of the Ira Bissell property. Further along the stream past the Strong's is the shingle mill F.P. may have built. In 1856, F.P. Bissell sold the sawmill to cousin David B. Strong. This transaction was the first of many interactions with the Strongs and F.P. Bissell.



See the Strongs just above the large pond in the center of the map, along what is today **Millstream** Road in Hebron, aptly named. It was the eastern border of the Bissell property. In 1857 the Strongs operated the sawmill, possibly the shingle mill. Along Church Street to the left, parallel to Millstream is the Bissell clan. For the full map see this link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/uconnlibrariesmagic/3386957013/sizes/o/in/photostream/>

Thomas and Abigail Moore's sons married Strongs as highlighted below. A fellow genealogy traveler and distant cousin, Rich Nichols of South Carolina, prepared the chart. He has been researching the Strong family:

Thomas Bissell/Abigail Moore - This is a brief rundown of their children: They were all born in Windsor.

Thomas Bissell II (1656-1738) married **Hester Strong** (1661-1726) - married 15 Oct 1678
 Abigail Bissell (1658-1723) married Nathaniel Gaylord (1656-1720)
 John Bissell (1661-1740) married Sarah White (c1662-1731)
 Joseph Bissell (1663-1689) married **Sarah Strong** (1666-1739) married 7 Jul 1687, Windsor
 Elizabeth Bissell (1666-1688) married John Stoughton (1657-1712) married about 1683, Windsor
 Benjamin Bissell (1669-1698) married Abigail Allyn (1672-1754)
 Sarah Bissell (1671-1703) married Cap Daniel White (1671-1726)
 Ephraim Bissell (1676-1676)
 Esther Bissell (1677-1678)
Ephraim Bissell (1680-1718) married Joanna Taylor (1677-1717) married 24 Dec 1703, Windsor
 Isaac Bissell (1682-1744) married Elizabeth Osborne (1684-1761)
 Luke Bissell (1682-1689)
 Ebenezer Bissell (1685-1689)

The Bissell's fifth son Ephraim was F.P.'s great-great grandfather. Ephraim and Joanna Taylor's only son was Benjamin Bissell who married Elizabeth Sawyer from a family of original Hebron settlers. They had a daughter Leah who married David Strong Sr. who in turn had a child they named David. As highlighted below he married another Bissell, Clarissa who was F.P.'s aunt:

Benjamin and Elizabeth Sawyer Bissell m. July 6, 1738
 b. February 23, 1711 d. Hebron August 9 1751 b. January 16, 1716-17 Hebron d. June 18, 1804
 |
 Benjamin and Mary Huntington Elizabeth Post Rachel Capt. Hezekiah and Phebe Post
 b.1741? d. c. 1777 d. 1813 age 44 b.1738 d. 1827 b1743 d. 1842 m. 1770
Leah Bissell and David Strong Sr. m. December 29, 1776 Abel and Lucy Post Bissell m. May 15, 1794
 b. 1749 b. 1739 d. 1830 Levi b. 1751 d. 1837 b.1766 d.1849

Levi and Abilena Mann Bissell m. Hebron November 29, 1774
 b. March 22, 1747 in Hebron d. December 10, 1828
 |
 Levi (b. 1776 d. 1847) Aaron (b.1771 d. 1867) Hannah Bissell Backus (b. 1779 d. 1868)
 Lydia (unknown) Alexander (b.1783 d. 1843) Abel (b.1785 d. 1861) Sally (b.1789 d.1859)
Clarissa (1791-1859) m. David Strong II Phebe (b. 1795 d. 1820) Harriet (unknown)
 Ira

Ira and Lavinia Phelps Bissell m. June 27, 1821
 b. January 19, 1788 d. April 13, 1870 b. January 19, 1788 d. November 13, 1853
 |
 Mary Adelaide **Frederic Phelps Bissell (F.P.)**
 b. April 19, 1832 d. December 20, 1850

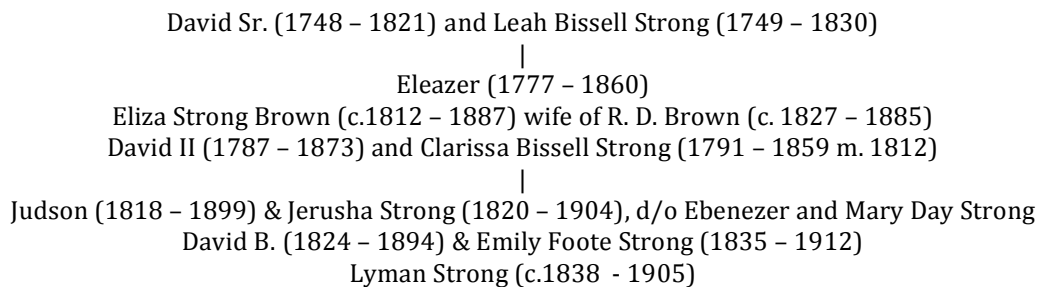
Frederic Phelps and Almira Jane Carver Bissell m. May 2, 1847
 b. April 23, 1822 d. September 22, 1905 b. October 11, 1826 d. October 10, 1907

Journal Entries About the Strongs

The first mention of a Strong in Frederic Phelps Bissell's journals was on June 17, 1849 with an intriguing, "Jane Strong published." I have not been able to identify Jane or what she wrote. The second mention of a Strong follows a year later: August 24, 1850, "Judson Strong raised his house."

Judson Strong was a cousin, the son of David Strong and aunt Clarissa (Clary) Bissell Strong. He was also the brother of another cousin David Bissell Strong to whom F.P. sold his sawmill in 1856. Judson lived just below D.B. Strong on the east side of what is today Millstream Road in Hebron. See the 1857 map above. The Strong properties shown in the map are all in line along Millstream. I assume the land was part of a larger land purchase by David Strong late in the 18th century. Judson's house may still be on Millstream and we know from F. P.'s journal just when it was built!

Judson's wife was Jerusha Strong, daughter of Mary Day Strong (1782 - 1857) and Ebenezer Strong. They had two children, Judson S. Strong (1851 - 1904), David Ebenezer Strong (1849 - 1900).



F.P. notes the passing of Judson's mother-in-law: December 13-14, 1857, "Watched with Judson Strong. Attended the funeral of Mrs. Mary (Day) Strong", and Judson's mother: August 4, 1859, "Aunt Clarissa Strong died last night and buried this afternoon." August 11, 1859, "Watched with Judson Strong (Sr.) last night."

Evidently Judson operated an icehouse, which F.P. mentions a couple times: February 1, 1862, "Helped Judson Strong fill icehouse." January 9, 1864, "Helped Judson Strong fill ice house." The ice probably came from the nearby millpond

Strangely, the next entry about Judson wasn't until January 26 and 28, 1893, 30-years later, "Went to see Judson Strong, then to the Depot" in Turnerville. Could it be that he had moved to Springfield, Massachusetts and was back for a visit to see his cousins?

Judson, Sr. died January 3, 1899 in Springfield, Massachusetts to where he must have moved with wife Jerusha (1820 – 1904). January 3, 1899 “Butchered a pig 254. Judson Strong of Springfield died.

F.P. notes the passing of Judson Sr. and Jerusha’s son on October 10, 1904, “Judson Strong of Springfield (Massachusetts) shot by a foreigner.” Judson must have been gravely wounded. He died October 17, 1904, born 1851 and is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, CT leaving his wife Mary Freyermuth born in 1853 in Germany.

Chauncey Strong was the next to appear in F.P.’s first journal: December 3, 1852, “Chauncey Strong raised his shed. It blew down some days ago.” October 17, 1853, “Worked on hog pen, husked for Mrs. Chauncey Strong.”

Frederic P. was shucking the corn harvested on the Chauncey Strong farm because Chauncey died September 25, 1853 at age 33. Chauncey’s wife was Mary E. Bissell (1826 – 1913 m. 1844). They had two children Calvin and Hubert who would have been eight and six respectively at his death. M. A. Foote researched the Barbour Index of Hebron births, marriages and deaths before 1850 to learn that Chauncey was brother to Judson, David B. and Lyman Strong. Strangely, he doesn’t mention Chauncey’s death in his journal.

Cyrus Strong was the next Strong to merit a mention in F.P.’s first journal: July 11, 1855, “Cyrus Strong’s corpse brought to Hebron.” 22, “Sunday, Mr. Warland preached Cyrus Strong’s funeral sermon.” He was just 30, son of George Strong (1793 – 1872) and Ann Buell (Strong) Strong (1799 – 1882). Five years later daughter Lydia Maria Strong died at 28: December 1, 1860, “Lydia Strong died at 4 o’clock AM today.”

George was son of Asa and Mary Mann Strong. Mary’s maiden name suggests that she was related to Abilena Mann who was F.P.’s grandmother. I do not know Ann Buell Strong’s family history though the Buell’s were a prominent Hebron family. George was no doubt related to the David Strong’s but I don’t know the precise connection. George and his family lived at the intersection of Church Street and Lebanon Road (Rt. 207) shown on the 1857 map. F. P. had several neighborly dealings with Esq. George:

April 15, 1861, “Helped raise horse barn for Esq. Geo Strong.”

July 4, 1864, “Got in 3 lo. hay, had a supper in our yard H.O. Carver and family, J. Willcox and family, E. Southwick and wife, and our own family besides Miss Lydia Strong and Esq. Strong called...”

April, 24, 1866, “Funeral of Miss Lydia (C.) Strong.” (1800 – 1866)

May 18, 1869, Esq. Strong raised barn, finished planting.”

February 12, 1872, “George Strong died last night.”

November 6 -8, 1874, “W. Wallace Strong died....buried at Andover today.

Lydia C. Strong may have been George’s sister. George and Ann had many children and George many siblings not depicted here.

Asa and Mary Mann Strong.
 |
 George Strong (1793 – 1872) and Ann Buell (Strong) Strong (1799 – 1882).
 |
William Wallace Strong (1823 – 1874)
Lydia (Maria) Strong (1832 – 1860)
Cyrus (1825 – 1855)

Besides Judson Strong, the longest contemporary Strong relationship F.P. had was with cousin D.B. Strong to whom he sold his sawmill March 20, 1856, "Sold my sawmill to David B. Strong."

These are his entries involving David B. Strong and another cousin Lyman Strong:

August 26, 1864 "D.B. Strong's child died." September 4, "Funeral of David B. Strong's child 6 yrs. old." These were Elmer and Bessie Strong, sister and brother dying within days of each other at age 2 and nearly 6 respectively, probably due to illness. Both are buried in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

August 12, 1865, "Worked on Sorghum Mill ventilator. Sorghum for the past week has grown about 1 foot. I have five stalks that show the heads some. D.B. Strong has some in his garden, which is headed out quite well."

March 16, 1873, D.B.'s father, "David Strong sick." 24, "Clarence gone all day after Dr. Storrs for David Strong." David II dies August 8, 1873 and his second wife "Aunt Strong" dies the next day – Betsey Harvey Mack Strong.

September 4, 1883, "Picknic (sic) of our S.S. in Lyman Strong's grove, good time."

March 12, 1893, "The old David Strong house burned last night, Lyman Strong moved into my house."

Lyman had been living in his father's house on Millstream Road above what had been his brother D. B. Strong's Hebron house, now George Tenant's. Lyman stayed with the Bissells for several months until F.P. went to see cousin David Bissell Strong on August 14 about finding a more permanent situation for Lyman. "Went to Packwoodville to see D.B. Strong about Lyman." Lyman moved to Colchester the next month.

D. B. Strong had moved to the Packwoodville section of Colchester after selling his property including the sawmill to George Tenant. F.P. mentions going to D.B.'s sawmill in Colchester at one point. D.B.'s wife was Emily Foote. Her family was from Colchester where there was abundant water for mills. D.B. saw opportunity and Emily was happy to be closer to family.

D. B. Strong died at age 69, March 5, 1894, "D.B. Strong died." 7, Funeral of D.B. Strong." Lyman died in 1905 in Colchester seven months before his cousin Frederic. Emily died in 1912. D. B. and Emily are buried in Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

A reference to the house from 1807 in the Hartford Courant:

"On the evening of the 5th instant, the dwelling-house of Mr. David Strong, of Hebron, was struck with lightning, and was much damaged in almost every part. One young man about 18 years of age, living in the family, was instantaneously killed—At the same time there were about 10 or 12 persons in the house, several of whom were severely shocked but received no other injury."
—The Connecticut Courant newspaper (Hartford, Connecticut), Wednesday, August 19, 1807, p. 3, col. 3.

Two of F.P.'s good friends Joel Jones and Ralph Brown married Strongs. Frederic P. Bissell's best friend was Joel Jones (1822 – 1909) He was married to Mary P. Strong (1838 – 1865). Her parents were Benjamin (1795 – 1870) and Lucy Welch Strong. Joel married Amelia Jones (1834 – 1909) after Mary died.

Aunt Eliza Strong Brown was the wife of Ralph. D. Brown. Both were frequently mentioned in F.P.'s early entries when living in Hebron. She was daughter of David Sr. and Leah Bissell Strong. Eliza was a sister of David II and Eleazer Strong, see the chart above. She and R. D. moved at some point to a farm in Exeter near Lebanon, CT. It always perplexed me why F.P. went to Exeter for one thing or another. Mystery solved.

I know little about several other Strongs mentioned in Frederic Bissell's journals.

April 14, 1856, "Alvira Strong and children started for Mish." (sp.?) (Could be Almira)
December 5, 1861, "Went to Capt. Chas. Strong's with hog, visited at Urbane's" (Carver) He could be Charles Lyman Strong of East Hampton (1818 – 1895) since a cousin of Urbane's, Lucien B. Carver brother of Almira Carver Bissell lived there.
March 23, 1864, "Ebenezer Strong died last night." 25, "Good Friday, funeral of Ebenezer Strong..." (1780 – 1864), Bolton Center Cemetery, Connecticut burial.
April 17, 1868, Put up a great heron for Walter Strong, mended fence and drew in logs to mill." January 15, 1879, "Put up an owl for Walter Strong."
September 5, 1868, "Probate Court hearing of Mrs. E. W. Strong Admin." 21, "Court Est. of E. W. Strong." (Probably Edwin W. Strong b. 1814, buried in Gilead Cemetery, Hebron.)
July 27, 1892, "Wrote a will for Mrs. James Strong of East Hampton."

Mrs. Strong was S. Jane Mitchell 1836 – 1904, wife of James Henry Strong who had died that February. He was born in 1833. East Hampton folks would have known F.P. because of Lucian B. Carver, who lived there with his family his whole adult life.

Cousin Lyman Strong's death in 1905 was the last entry Frederic Phelps Bissell would make in his journals about the Strongs. "February 18, 1905, "Body of Lyman

Strong of Colchester brought here today and buried in (the) old yard, died Thursday taken down with pneumonia Monday (the) 13th. Chauncey Brown called here.” Chauncey was a prominent farmer and businessman of the era born in Hebron in 1825, according to the J.W. Beers 1903 publication about early settled families in Tolland and Windham Counties.

F.P. died in September 1905 after a long illness; surviving all of the Strongs with whom he had been neighbors and friends.

The Carvers

Mary Ann Foote, my Hebron historian collaborator found a letter among the documents F. Clarence Bissell gave to the Hilding family when they purchased the Bissell homestead in 1914. One can view a photocopy of the original at the end of this narrative. It is from Almira’s brother Henry O. Carver to F.P. dated June 18, 1856. Though F.P. was much younger than H.O. when they grew up, they kept in touch after he moved to Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts near Holyoke and Granby, Massachusetts. As transcribed by M.A. it reads:

Chicopee Falls

June 8th 1856

Mr. F. P. Bissell

Dear Sir

I have a moment to write. I thought I would hear once more from Esq. Cone. I shall have the account with Hendee if he does not close the concern soon.

Curtis owns the west end of the garden fence, don’t you remember his plans. First, to build a fence thirty feet high, and set the back house in the line just oposit (sic) Old U’s Parlor window.

I have talked of going to Hebron with Ann Eliza about this time, but I now think that she will go alone. The small pox has finally subsided among us. No new cases within the last three weeks. We were exposed to the diseas (sic) at five funerals, before the wise and learned Doctors knew what the diseas was. Urbane talks some of going to Hebron. Had to plant all my corn over, the 4th day of June, 11 acres, in one day, one man, on horse, and corn planter. Have you seen this kind of planter? Well it does up the work ??
Shall you make us a visit this summer, all well, respects to all,

Yours Truly H.O. Carver

F.P.Bissell Esq

The Cones and Hendees were prominent families in town. Curtis A. Phelps owned a house and a garden just south of F.P. on Church Street. F.P. eventually bought Curtis's house after his death in 1860, renovated it possibly for himself. H.O.'s late wife Electa Phelps was Curtis's sister. I am not sure what the 30-foot high fence was all about!

H. O. Carver and his 19-year old daughter Ann Eliza didn't come that summer but cousin Urbane Carver did visit in August. Urbane's wife, Hannah Lyon Carver, had just died on May 9, 1856 possibly from the small pox that H.O. mentions in his letter. Urbane was from Granby, Massachusetts to where David Carver Sr. and his three youngest sons migrated in 1794 - Jonathan, Warren and Aaron according to the *Barbour Index*. Upon Aaron's death in 1852, three of his children sold Urbane Carver and John A. Fuller seven acres of land on Turkey Hill Road in Granby. Urbane was likely a cousin of Aaron's children by Warren or Jonathan or could have been his son. F.P. records that Urbane went to see "Lucien, wife, child, Emily & child" in Millington, a section of East Haddam, CT.

Emily B. Carver married William L. Cone of East Haddam in 1848.

From the *East Haddam Barbour Index* we learn that Lucien B. Carver married Hannah C. Olmsted May 31, 1848, recorded in F.P.'s journal June 1. Hannah was born in East Haddam and married at age 25. L. B. was 32. He was born in Hebron and both resided there at the time of their marriage. He may have been H. O.'s and Almira Jane Carver Bissell's brother or a cousin. Son Lucien B. Jr. was born July 28, 1849.

H. O. Carver married Electa Phelps of Hebron in 1835. Electa was daughter of Frederick Phelps Jr., son of F.P.'s namesake and maternal grandfather - Frederick and Mary (Molly) Jones Phelps. F.P.'s father Ira had married Levinia Phelps, a family that also included Molly, Electa, Joel and Salenda according to the *Hebron Barbour Index*.

Ann Eliza was born in 1837. Electa died May 7, 1853, "Electa Carver died this morning, went to E. Haddam." The funeral was the next day, "church full." She was 39-40-years old. Two years later H.O would marry another Hebronite Chloe Bliss Cooley and have a child Margaret Bliss (Maggie) on August 27, 1856. He would soon move to Hebron first to R.D. Brown's place then across the street from F.P. and Almira on Church when "Mother Carver" Dicey Phelps Carver moved-in with Almira and F.P.



The home of H. O. and Chloe Carver at 101 Church Street across from the Bissell farm, former home of Almira and her parents Joseph and Dicey Phelps Carver.

Urbane returned to Hebron the following June with H.O.'s daughter Ann Eliza and his second wife whom we cannot identify. June 26, 1857, "Went to Millington after Eliza and A. E. Carver." Eliza was possibly Eliza P. Carver who married Albert B. Crouch of Sag Harbor, Long Island in 1835, both often appearing in F.P.'s journal over the years. A.B. died September 5, 1869 recorded in F.P.'s first journal. Eventually Urbane moved to Hebron where he resided until his death in 1876. F.P. counted him among his close relatives judging by their interactions.

The Carver family was part of the "Plymouth Colony" in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Fourth generation Samuel Carver migrated to Canterbury, CT with Esther Church, where his eldest son David was baptized in 1730. David (b.1729 d. 1805) in turn moved to Hebron and married Amy Filer (b.1728) in 1749/50. They had ten children; one was Aldrick (Aldric, Alderick, Aldrich) (b. 1761), a Revolutionary War militiaman. He had 10 children with Asenath (Assenath) Tarbox, the oldest of which was Joseph Carver (b.1782 d. 1854) father of Almira Jane and H.O. Carver and father-in-law of F.P Bissell. This information is from *The Carver Family of Hebron, Conn. and Granby, Mass.* by John Bradley Arthaud, MD (1971) and the *Barbour Index*.

Robert, John, David Carvers of the Plymouth Colony and Weymouth, Mass.

|
Samuel and Esther Church Carver

|
 Amy Filer and David Carver, Sr. m. 1749/50
 b. 1728 b.1729 d. 1805

- 8 children
- Amy b.1751
- David Jr. b. 1753 and Judah Gott b. 1765
 - David Gott b. 1786
 - Erastus b. 1788
 - George b. 1790
 - Dudley b. 1792
 - Henry b. 1794
 - John Filer b. 1797

One link between the Carvers and the Strongs is that of David Strong and Amy Carver married February 3, 1773. Amy was the daughter of David Carver and Amy Filer b. 1750/51, see above. Amy Carver died a short time after her marriage June 2, 1774 at age 23/24. Following her untimely death David Strong married Leah Bissell.

Who and Where?

One of the enduring mysteries throughout the journals is where the Bissell families lived in relationship to one another? To some extent it remains a subject to speculate about, so let me do so in this narrative section.

The 1857 map shown in the Strong section of this narrative shows F.P.'s father Ira Bissell living north of the Curtis A. Phelps property on Church Street. The 1868-69-town map below depicts an F.P. dwelling adjacent to father Ira. We know from F.P.'s writings and town records that after Curtis died in 1860, F.P. purchased the property and worked on it for several months. But he does not say he moved there. November 24, 1869, he says, "Flavel Carver moved into my house." F.P. later sold it to Timothy P. Bissell in 1870, the same year that his father died. So, it's possible that F.P. did move into the Phelps house to accommodate his family and later sold it when Ira died, then moving into the Bissell farmstead.

That Phelps dwelling doesn't exist today. It would have been torn down well before the Catholic Church was built on the site. But it's possible that there is another explanation for what happened to the Phelps house.

On April 27, 1897 he wrote about his friend and sometime visitor, "Mr. George H. Southwick of So. Manchester died Saturday. He formerly lived in my house, burned by F Raymond." Raymond was a farmhand. Nowhere else does F.P. say anything about his house burning! But it's interesting to speculate that the Phelps house was destroyed by fire and F.P. and the family moved to Ira's house.

I think it is more likely that Ira and F.P. lived in the same structure. In the photograph below the attached house on the right was built in the early 1880's to accommodate F. Clarence Bissell's family. F.P. and his young family may have lived partly in the connecting addition in the 1850's and 60's until father Ira died in 1870. This view is bolstered by the fact that F.P.'s journal entries of visiting with his immediate family never give the impression that he was going anywhere to visit them. They were right there I suspect!



A backside view of the property demonstrates that the structure shown on the right was built at another time. Note the dormer in the central section and the depth of it to the back of the house would have supported a young F.P. family before 1870.



In January 1875 Clarence married Sarah "Gertie" Storrs and 18 months later daughter Alice was born. By 1881 there was another child Helen. F.P. doesn't record Clarence or Gertie moving in or out or living anywhere else than "home". After Ira died, F.P. may have moved into the main part of the house and Clarence and Sarah to the middle section or elsewhere in the main house.

From November 1880 and continuing through May 1881, F.P. worked on a house construction project. This was to be the "ell" (addition), which was the connection between the two houses and the second house itself. He first dug a cellar, got the stone and lumber, then framed and raised the house and roof. He says he "finished the chimney to the new part of the house, topped out the Ell and painted the roof to the veranda" and finally "laid basement on south side house." The veranda is the second floor addition on the backside of the house on the right. I believe the house on the left and the structure in between was being readied for Clarence's growing family.

For awhile F.P. appears to have used the new house for visitors such as Mr. and Mrs. Champlin from New London and workmen such as "CAP" and Bingham who "moved to my house" November 12, 1880 after "CAP" finished work for me today..." By April and May 1883, Clarence, Sarah and family were probably living in the "south part". F.P. was painting the front hall and bedroom, "sitting room, front room and front hall for Clarence; painting Clarence's rooms 2nd time. In his fourth journal he often writes about working on the "southern part" of the house. For example February 25, 1898, "Put up a scantling on roof of Ell so as to get past the chimney." March 15 -17, 1898 "finished painting body of house," "worked on walk to south part."



The photograph is taken of Frederic P and family about 1895. Note the darkened part of the picture on the right is the connecting middle section between the two houses.

Clarence and family moved to Willimantic in 1891. Thereafter, I think F.P. used the house for visitors or relatives such as Lyman Strong in 1893. In December 1901, F.P writes, "Mrs. Harriet Bissell in the other part of the house."

After F.P. died in 1905 and Almira in 1907, the house became F. Clarence and Sarah Bissell's. Clarence moved to Hartford around that time to become the Deputy State Comptroller. He and the family may have used the farmstead for vacations or breaks from the city life.

In 1914 he sold it to the Swedish immigrant Hilding family. The Hebron Historical Society's website article about the immigrant Hilding's presence in Hebron tells us a little more about the houses:

"If you look at the Hilding homestead (now the parsonage for Church of the Holy Family), it appears to be two homes, joined together by a center ell. Albert, Ethel and the children occupied the northern part of the home; John, Carolina, Sam, Ed, and Victoria occupied the southern part. The home was filled with people, but the layout of the house offered privacy and a living arrangement that worked well."

Since the essay doesn't mention anything about the Hildings having constructed the "southern part", I believe that the best explanation is that Frederic P. Bissell had built it in 1880 and 1881.

There is a possibility that the F. Clarence Bissells may have lived in other Bissell properties before they moved to Willimantic or before moving into the addition F.P. had built. Besides the Curtis A. Phelps property, in 1870 F.P. bought via quitclaim deed the 142-acre John Howey property shown on the 1868-69 map on Millstream Road where the Strong's held property.

He worked considerably on maintaining the "Howey" property as he referenced it several times between September 1891 and November of 1892 after Clarence and family had removed to Willimantic. October 31, 1891, "Clarence moved his furniture to Willimantic today." December 31, Clarence "is going to keep house." In early December, F.P. worked laying a new floor at the Howey house. The timing of his work and Clarence and Sarah's move to Willimantic may mean that Clarence and Sarah lived at that location.

In 1890, F.P. bought the "Bingham" property including barn and house then moved the barn to his farm - another Bissell property to consider!

In my view it's unlikely that Clarence and Sarah Bissell lived in the other houses F.P. owned given that he worked so hard to build the "second part" during 1880-1881 but, we may never know for certain.

Post-Post Scripts

F.P. wrote about a number of people and events, which I did not put in other narratives.

February 23, 1849, "Widow Lucy Bissell died." Lucy Post Bissell's parents were Joel and Sarah Bushnell Post. Lucy was married to F.P.'s great uncle Abel. F.P. hunted with Amos and Daniel Post September 4, 1849.

August 6-7, 1849, Hezekiah Bissell's child died last night. Funeral of H.B. child." This would be H. Asa Bissell who died at age one, son of Hezekiah and Mary Jane Cone Bissell. The Bissells would remain close to the Cones for years. The Bissells subsequently named another son Hezekiah Asa who maintained a farm just south of F.P.'s off Church Street. Another brother Benjamin Cone Bissell was born in 1857.

September 25, 1849, "Maria Bissell died last night." Unknown.

January 14, 1870, "Mrs. Laura Bissell died last night." (Laura E. Gillet Bissell, wife of Israel Augustus Bissell who had died in 1851.)

October 1, 1853, "Went to Colchester, got likeness taken." F.P. would have been 31. The photograph below may have been his "likeness" but F.P.'s receding hairline and graying beard suggests the photo was taken years later.



October 13-14, 1853, "Mr. Daniel Carver and wife here from Saratoga, NY. Showed Mrs. D. Carver how to put up a bird." I believe this to be Daniel W. Carver (1785 - 1862) buried in Greenridge Cemetery in Saratoga Springs, probably related to Almira.

April 1866 through May 1867, F.P. built the St. Peter's Church parsonage and barn at 60 Church Street and planted corn in the glebe next door with Clarence's occasional help.



April 24, 1867, "I sawed out pickets at Tenant's Mill." – simply confirms that D.B. Strong had sold the house and mill to Tenant and moved to Colchester.

October 3, 1868, "Called with Uncle Bliss at Dea. Porter's. Probably Samuel A. Bliss (1814-1895) whose wife was Electa M. - relation is unknown, but may have been related through the Strongs.

January 11, 1869, "Attended the funeral of Uncle Erastus Jones." (1778 – 1869) Spouse was Hannah Bliss Jones (1784 – 1834 m. 1804) – Again, not sure how they were related.

August 11, 1869, "Uncle Salmon Phelps and wife here." (1795 – 1874) Probably a brother of Levinia Phelps Bissell."

August 30, 1871, "funeral of Benjamin Bissell." He had died two days earlier. He was the son of Hezekiah and Mary J. Cone Bissell, brother of Hezekiah Asa.

February 12, 1872, "Went to Dwight Post's to see Miss E. Bissell on business." March 9, "funeral of Miss Elizabeth Bissell." Buried in St. Peter's cemetery, Hebron but an undiscovered relation.

November 27, 1873, A Louise Bissell was in Hebron for Thanksgiving and left December 5. Had been there since the 20th according to F.P. Louise was clearly related to F.P. and from out of town.

March 27, 1892, "Charles Bissell buried." Charles N. Bissell (b.1845) Civil War veteran, surviving wife Harriett would soon move into the "south part" of F.P.'s house and be courted by Mr. Charles Babcock of Niantic.

April 8, 1902, "N.S. Brown of Ottawa, Kansas died Sunday, formerly of Hebron." N. S. is shown to have lived above the Bissells on Church Street near town. See the Hebron center section of the 1869 map below. Newell Samuel Brown b. 1825 and his wife Emma Kellogg are buried in Ottawa and must have moved to Kansas after their marriage in 1868 perhaps taking advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862 that granted land to families in an effort to settle the west.

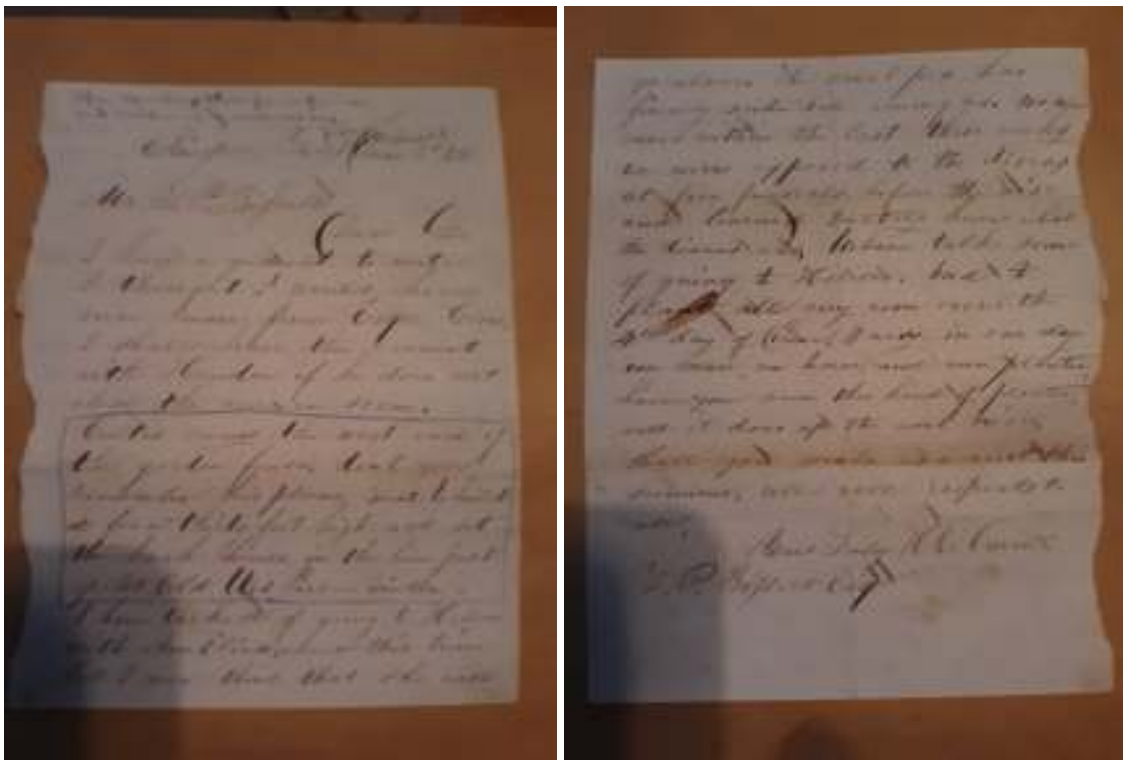
November 17, 1903, "Alderney heifer calved." Philadelphia scientist and abolitionist Reuben Haines III imported Alderney cattle from the Channel Islands in the early 19th century. They became extinct during WWII when German soldiers slaughtered them for food. Apparently the breed did not survive in the U.S. "Guernsey's and Jersey's" came from the Channel Islands by their names!



December 28, 1903, "Wrote a long letter to J. S. Porter, Wineberg, 1015 Prague, Austria." Prague was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the empire was broken-up in the aftermath of its WWI defeat.

According to local history, John Solomon Porter was a Hebron-Gilead native, and a missionary to Prague, Czechoslovakia. Born in Hebron on March 1, 1862 to Theodore Brown Porter and Sarah Ann Chapman, John married Lizzie Lucretia Colver and had 2 children. He passed away on September 6, 1938 in Prague, Czech Republic. He had been ordained in the Gilead Congregational Church and was preceded in Bohemia by another pastor Albert Clark in 1872.

One final note – I had always wondered about how F. Clarence Bissell had become acquainted with my great grandmother Sarah Gertrude Storrs. Sarah's father was Dan Paddock Storrs of Mansfield and her mother Lucinda Gilbert. There are references to both in the *Hebron Barbour Index*. Lucinda is from another prominent Hebron family. She was one of several children born to Ralph and Sarah B. Gilbert – February 25, 1826. Reverend Andrew Sharpe, longtime pastor of the First Congregational Church in Willimantic married Dan P. and Lucinda on Lucinda's 21st birthday February 25, 1847.



H. O. Carver's 1856 letter to F.P. Bissell transcribed in the Carver section of this narrative.

An 1869 Map of Hebron and its numbered school districts found in the HHS website:
www.hebronhistoricalsociety.org
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uconnlibrariesmagic/3404161509/sizes/o/in/photostream/>



By expanding the School District IV section on the 1868 map of Hebron, one can see many Bissells lining the east side Church Street: F.L. (Francis) & W.H. (Warren Henry) Bissell, H.A. Bissell (Hezekiah Asa), R.S. Bissell (Ralph), F.P. Bissell and his father Ira Bissell. F.P.'s journals mention all of them, but I don't know how Francis and Henry were related to Ira and F.P. All are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery. One can also see Turnerville Center at the bottom of the section at what is now Lake Road. Note F.P. in the "Business Reference" as Taxidermist and Insurance Agent!

In 1860, Frederic P. bought Curtis Phelps's property to the south and sold it to Timothy P. Bissell in 1870. Town records show Adoniram Bissell sold property to Hezekiah and R.S. Bissell in the early 1850's. Further up on the detailed map of Hebron Center is Timothy P. Bissell.